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APPLICATION

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FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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SPECIFICATION

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18 TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

19

20 BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **Bruce B. Gaillard**, a citizen of the United States,
21 have invented a new and useful portable salon station system of which the following is
22 a specification:

23

1

2

3 **Portable Salon Station System**

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6 **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

7 Not applicable to this application.

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10 **STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY
11 SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT**

12 Not applicable to this application.

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14

15 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

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18

19 **Field of the Invention**

20

21 The present invention relates generally to salon storage devices and more
22 specifically it relates to a portable salon station system for efficiently and safely
23 transporting salon appliances.

24

25

26 **Description of the Related Art**

27

28 Salon storage devices have been in use for years. More particularly,
29 conventional storage cases for independent salon appliances have been used to store

1 and transport the respective salon appliances. Hair professionals often times must
2 transport their salon appliances from one workstation to another. In addition, hair
3 professionals sometimes must transport their salon appliances to a client's residence or
4 other remote location.

5

6 However, conventional salon storage devices are not suitable for usage where a
7 plurality of salon appliances are being transported (e.g. curling irons, curling iron
8 oven). The main problem with conventional storage devices is that they do not allow
9 for the simultaneous storage and transportation of a plurality of items. A further
10 problem is that conventional storage devices are prone to heat damage from the salon
11 appliances since the salon appliances retain a significant amount of heat after usage
12 thereof. A further problem with conventional storage devices is that they require the
13 user to manually lift the appliances which can be physically demanding over extended
14 distances.

15

16 On attempted solution to conventional salon storage devices is illustrated in
17 U.S. Patent No. 5,054,615 to Stillwagon. The '615 patent illustrates the usage of a
18 stationary band supporting a plurality of tubular receptacles for receiving hair irons.
19 However, the '615 patent does not illustrate a foldable compact structure that is
20 suitable for transporting. In addition, the '615 patent does not illustrate a transporting
21 structure for easily transporting the case structure. There are other limitations within
22 the '615 patent which the present invention addresses.

23

24 While these devices may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they
25 address, they are not as suitable for efficiently and safely transporting salon appliances.
26 Conventional storage devices are not suitable for storing and transporting a plurality of
27 salon appliances over extended distances.

28

29 In these respects, the portable salon station system according to the present

1 invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior
2 art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of
3 efficiently and safely transporting salon appliances.

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2 **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

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4 In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of salon
5 storage devices now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new
6 portable salon station system construction wherein the same can be utilized for
7 efficiently and safely transporting salon appliances.

8

9 The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described
10 subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new portable salon station system that
11 has many of the advantages of the salon storage devices mentioned heretofore and
12 many novel features that result in a new portable salon station system which is not
13 anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art salon
14 storage devices, either alone or in any combination thereof.

15

16 To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a base, a cover
17 removably attached to the base, a support member pivotally attached to the base, a
18 guide member having a guide slot that slidably receives a pin extending from the
19 support member, and a plurality of holder members attached to the support member for
20 receiving a curling iron. The guide slot has an upper catch portion that allows for the
21 support member to be fully extended in an upright position for normal usage. The
22 support member may be lowered into the base into a compact storage position for
23 allowing attachment of the cover to the base. A transporting structure removably
24 receives the combination base and cover for allowing efficient transportation thereof.

25

26 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the
27 invention in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and
28 in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are
29 additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and that will form

1 the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

2

3 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in
4 detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the
5 details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the
6 following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other
7 embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be
8 understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose
9 of the description and should not be regarded as limiting.

10

11 A primary object of the present invention is to provide a portable salon station
12 system that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

13

14 A second object is to provide a portable salon station system for efficiently and
15 safely transporting salon appliances.

16

17 Another object is to provide a portable salon station system that is capable of
18 storing various types of salon appliances such as curling irons, an oven and the like.

19

20 An additional object is to provide a portable salon station system that is
21 compact in structure.

22

23 A further object is to provide a portable salon station system that has a
24 removable transportation structure.

25

26 Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become obvious to the
27 reader and it is intended that these objects and advantages are within the scope of the
28 present invention.

29

1 To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be
2 embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called
3 to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be
4 made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the
5 appended claims.

1

2 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

3

4 Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present
5 invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when
6 considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference
7 characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and
8 wherein:

9

10 FIG. 1 is an upper perspective view of the present invention.

11

12 FIG. 2 is an exploded front view of the present invention.

13

14 FIG. 3a is a side view of the present invention with the support member fully
15 extended in the usage position.

16

17 FIG. 3b is a side view of the present invention with the support member fully
18 extended with the guide member pivoted from the locked position.

19

20 FIG. 4 is a side view of the present invention with the support member partially
21 extended.

22

23 FIG. 5 is a side view of the present invention with the support member fully
24 retracted into the storage position.

25

26 FIG. 6 is a side view of the transporting structure receiving the case structure.

27

28 FIG. 7 is a side view of the transporting structure with the upper bracket
29 retained against the case structure.

1

2 FIG. 8 is a side view of the transporting structure pivoted and moving
3 forwardly.

4

5 FIG. 9 is a rear view of the transporting structure with the case structure
6 attached within.

1

2 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

3

4 *A. Overview*

5 Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference
6 characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 through 9
7 illustrate a portable salon station system **10**, which comprises a base **20**, a cover **30**
8 removably attached to the base **20**, a support member **50** pivotally attached to the base
9 **20**, a guide member **56** having a guide slot that slidably receives a pin extending from
10 the support member **50**, and a plurality of holder members **60** attached to the support
11 member **50** for receiving a curling iron **12**. The guide slot has an upper catch portion
12 that allows for the support member **50** to be fully extended in an upright position for
13 normal usage. The support member **50** may be lowered into the base **20** into a compact
14 storage position for allowing attachment of the cover **30** to the base **20**. A transporting
15 structure **70** removably receives the combination base **20** and cover **30** for allowing
16 efficient transportation thereof.

17

18 *B. Enclosure*

19 The enclosure is comprised of a base **20** and a cover **30** as best shown in Figure
20 2 of the drawings. The cover **30** is removably connectable to the base **20** for providing
21 access to the salon accessories and appliances (e.g. curling iron **12**, etc.) within. The
22 cover **30** may be pivotally attached to the base **20** or completely removably attached to
23 the base **20**. Various securing structures may be utilized to secure the cover **30** to the
24 base **20** as can be appreciated.

25

26 The enclosure preferably has a rectangular structure, however various other
27 structures may be utilized to construct the enclosure. The base **20** and the cover **30**
28 have a heat resistant inner liner to prevent damage to the enclosure from heated salon
29 appliances and accessories.

1
2 At least one handle **22** is preferably attached to the enclosure for allowing easy
3 grasping by a user. The base **20** preferably includes a plurality of feet **24** extending
4 from a lower surface for supporting the base **20** upon a surface.

5
6 A support platform **26** or similar structure is attached within the base **20**. The
7 support member **50** and the guide member **56** are pivotally connected to the support
8 platform **26** as best shown in Figure 1 of the drawings.

9
10 **C. Support Member**
11 The support member **50** is pivotally attached within the base **20** at a pivot point
12 **54** as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings. The support member **50** may have various
13 structures and shapes capable of supporting the plurality of holder members **60**.
14 Figures 1 and 2 illustrate an exemplary support member **50**, however various other
15 structures may be utilized to construct the support member **50**.

16
17 **D. Holder Members**
18 A plurality of holder members **60** are attached to the support member **50** as
19 shown in Figures 1 through 5 of the drawings. The holder members **60** each have a
20 tubular structure with an upper opening as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings.
21 The holder members **60** are formed for receiving at least one curling iron **12** per holder
22 member **60**. The holder members **60** are preferably substantially vertical when the
23 support member **50** is positioned in an upright position as shown in Figure 3a of the
24 drawings.

25
26 The holder members **60** are preferably comprised of a heat resistant material
27 such as but not limited to metal for receiving a heated salon appliance. Various other
28 structures may be utilized to support the curling iron **12** and other salon appliances
29 such as but not limited to hooks, loops and the like.

1

2 **E. Guide Member**

3 A guide member **56** is pivotally attached to the base **20**. The guide member **56**
4 is preferably attached to the support platform **26** as illustrated in Figures 1, 3a through
5 5 of the drawings. The guide member **56** includes a guide slot that slidably receives a
6 flanged pin extending from the support member **50**.

7

8 As shown in Figures 3a through 5 of the drawings, the guide slot is curved to
9 correspond to the radius of curvature of the support member **50**. The guide slot has an
10 upper catch portion extending along the radius of movement of the guide member **56**
11 as shown in Figures 3a through 5 of the drawings. The upper catch portion selectively
12 catches the pin to retain the support member **50** in an upright position as shown in
13 Figure 3a of the drawings.

14

15 **F. Oven**

16 An oven **40** is preferably positioned within the base **20** as shown in Figures 2
17 through 5 of the drawings. The oven **40** may be comprised of any convention oven **40**
18 commonly utilized to heat the contact element **14** of the curling irons **12**.

19

20 **G. Transporting Structure**

21 A transporting structure **70** is preferably provided that allows for the
22 transportation of the enclosure when fully closed. The transporting structure **70**
23 preferably removably receives the enclosure as shown in Figures 6 through 9 of the
24 drawings.

25

26 The transporting structure **70** has a frame structure. The frame structure may be
27 comprised of a plurality of support poles **72** or related frame structure attached to a
28 plurality of wheels **74** as shown in Figures 6 through 9 of the drawings. A handle may
29 be attached to the support poles **72** as best shown in Figure 9 of the drawings.

1
2 A lower support 76 is attached to and extends from a lower portion of the
3 support poles 72 in a non-movable manner as shown in Figures 6 through 8 of the
4 drawings. The lower support 76 may have various broad structures capable of
5 supporting the enclosure.

6
7 An upper support 78 is slidably attached to and extends from an upper portion
8 of the support poles 72 as shown in Figures 6 through 8 of the drawings. A locking
9 lever 79 or similar locking mechanism is positioned within the upper support 78 for
10 selectively locking a desired position of the upper support 78 as shown in Figure 7 of
11 the drawings.

12
13 ***H. Operation***
14 The user utilizes the transporting structure 70 to transport the enclosure to a
15 desired location. The user releases the locking lever 79 of the upper support 78 and
16 elevates the upper support 78 away from the enclosure. The user then removes the
17 enclosure from the transporting structure 70. The user positions the enclosure on a
18 desired surface such as a table or stand. The cover 30 is then removed from the base
19 20 thereby exposing the curling irons 12 and related salon items as shown in Figure 2
20 of the drawings.

21
22 The user then elevates the support member 50 as shown in Figure 4 of the
23 drawings from the storage position (illustrated in Figure 5 of the drawings). The user
24 continues to elevate the support member 50 until the pin from the support member 50
25 has reached the upper portion of the guide slot within the guide member 56 as shown
26 in Figure 3b of the drawings. The user then pivots the guide member 56 forwardly so
27 that the pin is positioned within the catch portion of the guide slot as shown in Figure
28 3a of the drawings. The support member 50 is now fully supported by the guide
29 member 56 as shown in Figure 3a of the drawings. The user is then able to access the

1 curling irons **12** from the oven **40** as needed. Heated curling irons **12** may be
2 positioned within the holder members **60** to allow for cooling and storage thereof.
3 When finished, the above process is simply reversed.

4

5 As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present
6 invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no
7 further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

8

9 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum
10 dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size,
11 materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are
12 deemed to be within the expertise of those skilled in the art, and all equivalent
13 structural variations and relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and
14 described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

15

16 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of
17 the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to
18 those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction
19 and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and
20 equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.